

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 6

2nd June, 2023



Viva l'Italia



Heavenly Father,

We ask for Your blessings upon the Italian people, granting them unity, harmony, and a spirit of camaraderie. May they continue to embrace their rich history and cultural traditions, sharing them with the world and fostering understanding and appreciation among nations.

On this feast day, we also remember the saints and spiritual leaders who have emerged from this land, carrying the light of faith and spreading Your gospel. We ask for Your continued guidance and protection over the spiritual journey of the Italian people, that they may deepen their relationship with You and be beacons of Your love and grace.

In Your infinite mercy, hear our prayer, and may the feast day of Italy be a joyful celebration of the blessings You have bestowed upon this nation.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



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<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsp>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

As we come to the end of another week of learning opportunities we also welcome the season of Winter.

Our **Foundation - Year 2 students were involved in a *Toys - Force and Motion* incursion** on Wednesday which saw them investigate various toys and how they relate to scientific principles. This was a wonderful experience for our children and I was told by one student that it was *'the best incursion ever!'*

We had the **second of our Open Days for Term 2 on Wednesday** which saw us show a number of prospective families all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2024 they are more than welcome to contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself. Our **third Open Day for the Term is on Thursday 15 June.**

Today (Friday) we had our annual **Italian Day** which was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the learning of our children and the culture of Italy. Our school was awash with red, white and green and a variety of prominent Italian characters and icons. I would like to thank our children and families for getting into the spirit of the day. I would also like to **acknowledge and thank Signora Harris** for her organisation and coordination of the day. I would also like to **thank Woolworths, Dandenong Junction** for their **support**. It was definitely **un molto bene day!**

Please keep in your **thoughts and prayers** our **Year 4 children** who are in the final stages of their preparation to **receive Communion for the first time**. This is a significant milestone and step in their faith journey as they celebrate this second Sacrament of Initiation. Their **First Communion will occur at the St Gerard's 10.30am Mass next Sunday 11 June**. Everyone is more than welcome to come and support these children and their families.

Lastly, a reminder that **RAT's (Rapid Antigen Tests)** are available for families in the **School Office Area**. Please feel free to collect these at any time, particularly as we head into the colder months.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



Italian Day



Italian Day



St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacrament Dates, 2023

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Reflection Day:	Thursday 8th June (children may wear casual clothes)
First Communion:	Sunday 11th June, 10:30am
First Communion Assembly:	Friday 16th June, 2:50pm

Whole School Mass:

Friday	24 th June	Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Parish Mass, Adoration available throughout the day)
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St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

Our goal is to fill our food cart to the brim once more for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. Starting from week two, the Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will gather food items, and the collection will end on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that donates the most items will earn a casual dress day.

Vinnie's

WINTER APPEAL



'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage their emotions and get a good sleep – all of which assist learning.

Most research about nutrition and mental health has focused on adults. We know that good nutrition is associated with better mental health outcomes, whereas a poor diet is associated with a greater risk of depression and anxiety. However, emerging research that focuses on children and young people has also found a relationship between unhealthy diets and poorer mental health outcomes.

Poor nutrition has been associated with:

- externalising behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, disobedience)
- symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- poor concentration and tiredness, which interfere with learning
- immune system function, which is also linked to mental health
- delayed brain development – high-fat, high-sugar diets can affect proteins in the body that are important for brain development
- iron deficiency, which has been linked to cognitive function impairments associated with learning and memory
- nutrient deficiencies, which have been associated with mental health conditions including depression and anxiety (we know that fruits and vegetables, grains, fish, lean red meats and olive oils are rich in important nutrients such as folate, magnesium, vitamins and zinc which all impact on body and brain functions, including mood regulation)

WELLBEING



Give Me 5 News

This week the Give Me Five focus was 'Be Respectful in the Learning Areas'. The teachers were looking for students who were speaking appropriately and using manners, caring for property, taking turns, showing whole body listening and greeting people by name. Students who displayed these behaviours were rewarded with raffle tickets.

- ☐ Next week our whole school will be focusing on 'Being Positive in the Learning Areas'.

Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

WELLBEING



Thursday, **8 th June** is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).

FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

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IMPORTANT DATES



Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays this week



- Nevyn Yr 1
- Blessed Yr 3

Lunchtime Gardening Club

At St Gerard's students have the opportunity to learn about the garden during our lunch time Gardening Club. This week we collected chicken eggs and filled up the chicken's water and food containers.

One of our senior students also spent some time educating our juniors about the responsibility of having chickens and all of little jobs that we have to do to keep our feathery friends healthy and happy.



Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style
Size
Colour
Quantity
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Syndal Softball Club
- Noble Park Junior football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club
- Noble Park Auskick Centre (AFL)



Chicken Eggs For Sale

St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.

You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of \$6 per dozen.

All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.

Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.